



South Spokane Street Viaduct Project

Summer 2009

Bridging the Gap

The \$168 million South Spokane Street Viaduct Project is funded in part by Bridging the Gap, the \$365 million levy passed by Seattle voters in 2006 which also funds much needed work by SDOT, such as roadway paving, sidewalk development and repair, bridge maintenance, and tree pruning and planting.

It also supports the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans, enhanced transit connections and large Neighborhood Street Fund projects.



For more information:

- Visit the project website at www.seattle.gov/spokane
- Sign up for project email updates on the website
- Call the information line at (206) 684-4747
- Request a project briefing for your group
- Send specific questions and requests to Art Brochet, art@spokaneproject.info (206) 240-1106

More lanes, safer routes to Downtown and West Seattle

Background:

The Spokane Street Viaduct Widening and Fourth Avenue Ramp Project, which began last fall with the closure of eastbound South Spokane Street to allow significant utility upgrades, is well underway. *(The Spokane Street Viaduct is the elevated roadway—over South Spokane Street—that connects I-5 to West Seattle.)*

Once finished in late 2011, the project will provide the following:

- A Spokane Street Viaduct that is twice as wide, providing commuters and freight traffic with much safer shoulders and merge lanes for entering and exiting the viaduct, to improve traffic flows.
- A new eastbound off-ramp from the Spokane Viaduct that will allow eastbound commuters and freight traffic direct access to 4th Avenue South while avoiding rail traffic.
- The two existing SODO-area on- and off-ramps for westbound Spokane Viaduct traffic will both be replaced with a combined on- and off-ramp at 1st Avenue South, with merge lanes and much safer entry and exit sight-lines.
- Finally, the lower roadway, extensively used for freight and commercial traffic within SODO, will be repaved in concrete with all new curbs and sidewalks and a new storm drain system, making it both efficient and pleasant for commuters, freight, bikes and pedestrians.

Progress: New off-ramp to 4th Avenue South

Construction on the new two-lane off-ramp for eastbound traffic from the Spokane Street Viaduct to 4th Avenue South has been going well. The 22 support columns and underground shafts, which are up to 100 feet deep, were completed more than a month ahead of schedule.

The ramp's roadway is now under construction, as are improvements to eastbound lower Spokane Street between East Marginal Way and 6th Avenue South. This work will proceed in segments and the roadway will be re-opened as soon as possible.

Progress: Viaduct Widening

Bids for the widening portion of the project were received in late June and came in less than estimated. Construction is expected to start this fall.

At that time, the westbound lower Spokane roadway will be closed for approximately two years, allowing the new Viaduct roadway to be built alongside the current one, directly above the westbound lower roadway.

What's Inside:

Inside you will find an aerial-view schematic of the finished Spokane Street Viaduct and ramp, with explanatory notes. The back page provides a general project timeline with expected street closures and a list of current and upcoming impacts.

SPOKANE STREET VIADUCT BEFORE



SPOKANE STREET VIADUCT AFTER



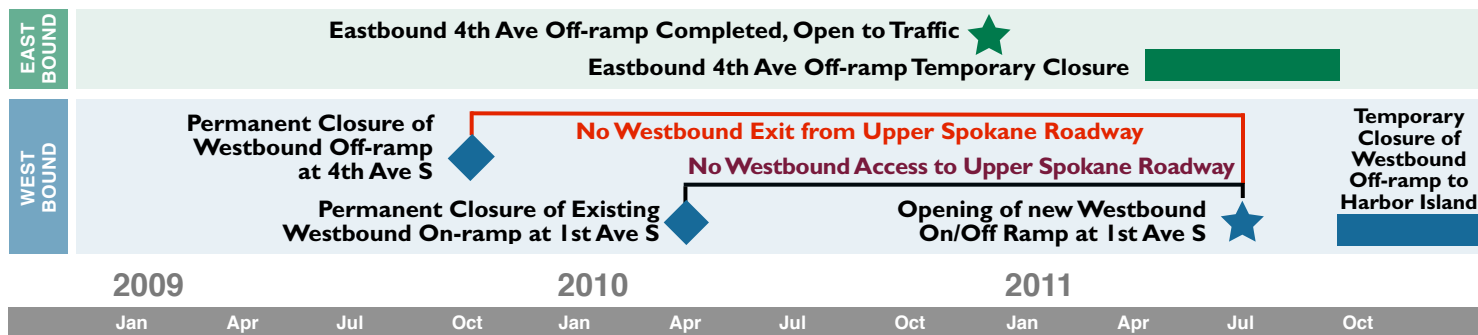
South Spokane Street Viaduct Project

PROJECT TIMELINE & LANE CLOSURES

LOWER SPOKANE CLOSURES



RAMP CLOSURES & OPENINGS



CURRENT & UPCOMING IMPACTS

Eastbound Lower Spokane

At present, eastbound lower Spokane Street is closed to through traffic between 1st and 6th Avenues South. Eastbound Spokane is expected to re-open between 4th and 6th Avenues South in January 2010.

Eastbound Spokane Street between East Marginal Way and 1st Avenue South will be closed to through traffic from July to October 2009, and the section between 1st and 4th Avenues South will remain closed until approximately October 2010.

Westbound Lower Spokane

There will be occasional single-lane closures on westbound lower Spokane Street this summer for survey and utility relocation work. Closure of all lanes on westbound Spokane between 6th and 1st Avenues South is planned to begin in late 2009, and between 1st Avenue and East Marginal Way in April 2010.

Once those closures occur, reopening of lower Spokane to westbound traffic is not anticipated until the project is completed in December 2011.

Access to and from the Upper Viaduct

The existing westbound off-ramp onto 4th Avenue South will be demolished as early as October 2009 and the westbound on-ramp, just west of 1st Avenue South, in April 2010. Vehicles heading for West Seattle or Harbor Island can access the Spokane Viaduct via SR 99 or I-5, or can use surface streets west of East Marginal Way.

The existing eastbound off-ramp onto Spokane Street at 1st Avenue South will not be affected and will remain in service during and after construction.



Seattle Department of Transportation

Seattle Municipal Tower
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3900
PO Box 34996
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 2871

Postal Customer

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

South Spokane Street Viaduct Project

Widening of Spokane Street Viaduct

The upper roadway between 6th Avenue South and East Marginal Way will be widened to the north by 41 feet.

The widened structure will allow room for wider lanes and shoulders, a new westbound acceleration/ deceleration lane, and an additional eastbound HOV/Transit lane between East Marginal Way and 4th Avenue South.

The existing upper roadway deck will be repaved and variable message signs will be installed.

New Westbound On- and Off-Ramp Relocated to 1st Avenue

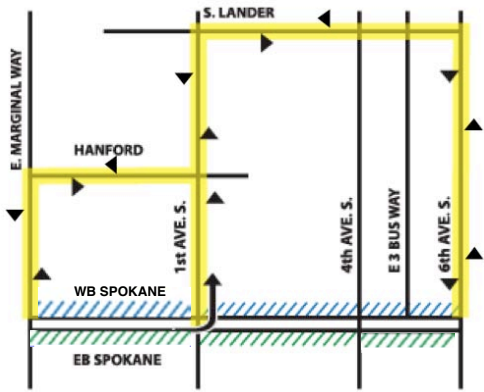
The existing ramp at 4th Avenue South for westbound traffic will be replaced by a new ramp at 1st Avenue South, with gentler curves for improved traffic flow.

Relocating the westbound ramps to 1st Avenue South will allow for smoother and much safer entry to and exit from the upper roadway.

Viaduct Users Please Note:

No extended closures of the Spokane Street Viaduct itself are currently expected, in either direction, during the course of construction. Some lane restrictions will be needed as the new structures are tied into the existing Viaduct, but these will be arranged to minimize impacts will be announced well in advance.

PRINCIPAL DETOUR ROUTES



Eastbound—Until eastbound lanes on lower Spokane Street are reopened to traffic, vehicles will be detoured to South Hanford Street along East Marginal Way, and to South Lander Street via 1st Avenue South.

Westbound—The principal detour route for westbound traffic will be along 6th Avenue South, Lander Street, 1st Avenue South, Hanford Street and East Marginal Way.

Other routes, using the surface street grid in the area, may also be used to avoid the lower Spokane Street closures. Industrial Way to the south and Holgate Street to the north both provide alternate east-west routes.

Lower Roadway Reconstruction

The lower roadway will be rebuilt with curbs and gutters, and a new 10-foot wide sidewalk with landscaping will be installed along the north side of the lower roadway.

Creating a formal sidewalk on the north side of Spokane Street will serve as a link for bicyclists between the bike paths west of East Marginal Way and the planned E-3 Busway bike path, and will facilitate pedestrian traffic.

1st Avenue Eastbound Ramp

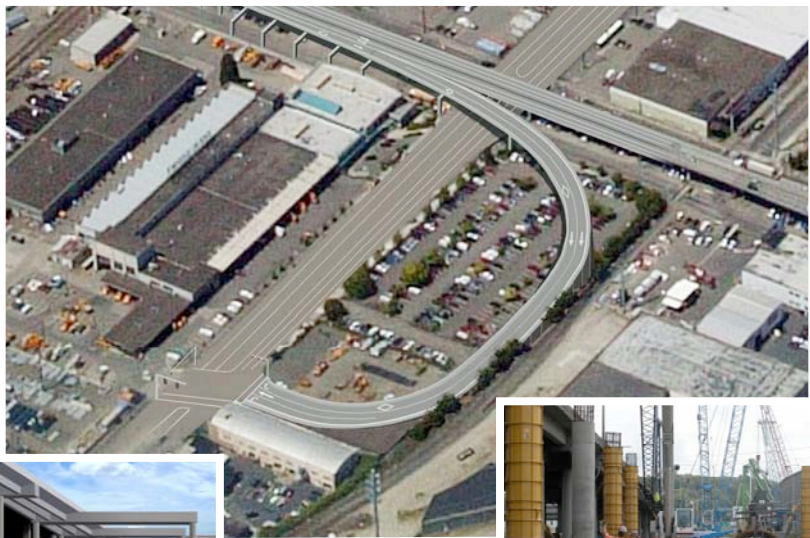
The existing eastbound off-ramp onto Spokane Street at 1st Avenue South will remain in service during and after construction.

New Eastbound Off-ramp to 4th Avenue

A new, two-lane off-ramp from the Spokane Street upper roadway will touch down at 4th Avenue South, where vehicles may head either northbound or southbound on 4th Avenue South.

During the spring months, crews drilled 22 shafts—each 60 to 100 feet deep—to support the columns for the new ramp. At left, workers are seen maneuvering a 10-foot diameter casing into place prior to pouring concrete into the shaft.

Above right, the ramp as it will look when complete. Inset, an artist's rendering of the new ramp with its support beams that arc over the eastbound lanes of Spokane Street. Inset far right, crews prepare the rebar-reinforced concrete columns that will support the beams.



New Water Main Under Eastbound Spokane

Before construction could begin on the new 4th Avenue off-ramp, Seattle Public Utilities crews replaced a 100-year-old, 30-inch cast iron water main with a new main constructed to current seismic standards to protect this vital water supply to businesses and homes.